GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL AND MINES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4191
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2002
ABANDONMENT OF BAKULIA COLLIERY OF ECL
SUNIL KHAN

Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Bakulia Colliery of ECL are abandoned after boring roles of surface land;

(b) if so, the reasons for investing Rs. 2 crores there;

(c) whether there was an agreement between the land loosers and the management to provide jobs to the land loosers;

(d) if so, the reasons for delay in implementing the agreement;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether it is a fact that the land loosers have not paid even compensation by ECL; and

(g) if so, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF COAL AND MINES (SUHREE UMA BHARTI)

(a) : Bakulia project has been shelved.

(b) : The amount of Rs. 2.03 crore was spent against the project mostly for exploration except Rs. 4.90 lakh for land acquisition.

(c) to (e): In the meeting held with ECL,concerned Panchayat and Land losers on 3.7.91, it was agreed in principle to provide 24 employments against 48.5 acres of land on adhoc basis provided the project starts. Coal from Bakulia project was proposed to be linked to Mejia Thermal Power Station of Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) and DVC was to accept the coal on cost plus basis. However, the DVC did not agree to pay the above price and the project became non- viable and did not take off. Ultimately, the project has been shelved. Therefore, providing employment without any project coming up despite agreement in principle was difficult for ECL, as expenses are booked under approved project, which includes land compensation and rehabilitation.

(f) & (g): The compensation against land amounting Rs. 4.90 lakh has been deposited with the Government of West Bengal for disbursing payments to the land losers.